Scieaii&c Advisory Committee of the centre was to augment the development of Regional Centre (South) for advanced research in agriculture related health problems.

(b) It has been reported that the Centre has alreiady intiated acuities in the field, of Agriculutre viz. Agro-medi-cine and Agricnftural Hygiene also. They have approached the Government of Karnataka for allocation of a suitablc plot of land also.

Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Lecture on population growth

1312. SHRIMATI CHANDR1KA A8W1NANOAN JAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE he pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to the first Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Lecture delivered by Mr. Robert S. McNaroara, former World Bank President at New Delhi on 23rd May. 1992 wherein he has outlined a new programme to check population grwth in the country: and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI STDDHARTHA): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) Delivering the first Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Lecture, Mr. Robert S. McNamara had emphasized the importance of population control to advance human development. He had outlined the adverse impact of rapidly growins population. on environment and quality of life of the people- He indicated that even if the fertility rates continue to decline - as at present, the country will have an additional population of 435 million in the next 30 year. According to him. the population control in India ha-.l been narrowly identified with family plannng. In corrseijuertce. the family plannins programme which in itself needed strengthening, has had to bear virtually th eentire population burdon, to the detriment of both the programme itself and the prog-ress of fertility reduction . He maintained that India should give adequate attention to other factors which also effect fertility, in particular, the age at wh'ch women marry and the status of women -especially as reflected in their educational levels. He has outlines the need for increased use of contraceptives. better status for women, setting up of a National Population Council, launching a campaign to promote delayed marriages among women, ensuring the retention and enrolment of girls in primary schools, etc. to reduce the pepulation growth in the country.

The Government is fully seized of the population problem facing the country. For accelerating the pace of acceptance of small family norm in the country, new policies aiming.,at adopting a holistic approach have been evolved. These policies intend giving due importance to socio-economic factors like female literacy, status of women, employment of women, right age of marriage of girls, attitudinal changes in regard *to* strong son pre-ference. etc. They recognise the importance of •'mprovement of quality and outreach of family welfare services, re: duction of infant, child and maternal mortality, eliciting large participation of the people in population control efforts and the neel to have strong administrative Support and political will for pursuing the population control programme. A Committee of the National Development Council on Population has been set up to take into account the multi-sectoral dimension of the population issues and to evolve a National Population Policy An Act rm Plan has been prepared in consultation with State Governments and Union Territories Administration for im-parting a new thrust and dynamsm to the Family Welfare Programme. Most of the sucsestions by Mr. Mc. Namara ate already incorporated in the Action Plan and th's Action Plan is being opeationa-lised by the Staies/UTs. The population control programme has been given high priority in the Eighth Five Year Plan.